did not have that much of difficulty which they had last year. I can still check up. But my information is that there is no stock. All the 93 lakh tonnes have been sold.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You go with him and show him the stock. Question No. 223.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, he raised a very pertinent point. He said that the STC has not gone into the market...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last year it came.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Please listen. And the Union Government offered Rs. 10 crores which the State Government refused to take. But he did not say why the State Government had refused it. Secondly, when the growers cooperative came into existence and when the State Government pleaded with the Union Government that this amount may be given to them, so that there may not be any problem of the type we had last year, there was no reply from the Union Government. On the other hand, he simply states that all stocks have been purchased. I think this is not correct.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Why Andhra Pradesh Government has refused it, can be answered by Andhra Pradesh Government. I cannot answer that question. How can I answer that question? And the hon. Member has given the answer himself: it is because the farmers have gone in for the cooperative...

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, he has not replied to my question. There is a letter from the State Government as to why they did not take the amount of Rs. 10 crores. Last year when the money was taken, the State Government purchased it but they did not permit the State Government to sell anywhere with the result that there has been so much stock lying with the State Government and it has become a problem. When this was pointed out to the Union Government, they did not do anything. On the other hand, they are simply saying that the stocks have been sold. This is a very important crop and Andhra Pradesh produces 85 per cent of it. So the way they have been dealing with the Andhra Pradesh Government has not been correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have given their own explanation and I think that is the end of it. Question No. 223.

**New schemes for promotion of Construction Project Exports**

*223. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:†
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new schemes introduced by Government for the promotion of construction project exports during the last two years and what new measures are being contemplated by Government in this regard;

(b) what are the statistics of construction project exports during 1981, 1982, 1983 and so far during 1984 and what are the reasons for the decrease;

(c) whether Government propose to back the construction project exports with credit facility, especially in Iraq and Libya, in view of the problem of reduced development expenditures in West Asia:

(d) what is Government's strategy of operation in respect of construction project exports, especially in Iraq and Libya at present; and

(e) whether Iraq and Libya have informed or indicated that the new projects could be awarded to the Indian companies if they accept payment in oil and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramchandra Bharadwaj.

(e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) In order to promote exports of construction projects, a separate Export Promotion Council called the 'Overseas Construction Council of India' has been established. In addition, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and the National Institute of Construction Management and Research are launching training programmes to augment the management capability of the Indian construction industry to enable it to meet the challenges of International competition.

(b) The contracting position in respect of overseas civil construction projects during the last few years is given below:

| Year | Amount (Rs. Crores) |
|---|---|
| 1981 | 1594 |
| 1982 | 408 |
| 1983 | 308 |
| 1984* | 1375 |

(*Value of bids cleared by the Working Group whose outcome is awaited)

Contracting for civil construction projects has declined in important markets including Iraq & Libya on account of the Iran-Iraq conflict, liquidity problems created thereby and a decline in their revenues from oil.

(c) Facilities are already being extended by EXIM BANK and other Commercial Banks.

(d) Government is continuing to support Construction Project Exports to various countries, including Iraq and Libya, on a case by case basis, depending, among other factors, upon the viability of the proposal.

(e) No propsal has been received by the Government of India from the Governments of Iraq and Libya for award of new projects to Indian Companies if they take payment in oil.

**श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज** : मान्यवर, जो जवाब दिया है, इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में, उसको देखने से ऐसा लगता है कि सब बातें सामान्य हैं, कहीं कोई गड़बड़ी नहीं है और एग्जिम बैंक तथा अन्य कमर्शियल बैंकों द्वारा सुविधायें पहले से दी जा रही हैं, ऐसा उत्तर में कहा गया है । स्थिति यह है कि ईराक और ईरान के संघर्ष का हवाला देकर जो हमारा टारगेट था प्रोजेक्ट एक्सपोर्ट का, उसमें कमी आती जा रही है। काम हमें मिलना कम हो गया है बल्कि अब बिल्कुल बन्द होने के कगार पर है, ऐसी बात समाचार-पत्रों में भी आया है । यहां पर जो फिगर्स दी गई हैं वे इससे बिल्कुल भिन्न हैं । क्योंकि "इक्नामिक टाइम्स" में 5 जून को आया था कि 64 करोड़ रूपये से सेवेन्टीज में 530 करोड़ पर हम विकास करके गए थे और फिर नाइनटीज में एक हजार करोड़ की आशा थी । यहां तो इस फिगर एक हजार करोड़ से बहुत ज्यादा पहले ही बढ़ चुके हैं और सारा काम सामान्य चल रहा है ऐसा लगता है । मगर एक यही कारण नहीं है कि ईराक, ईरान या लीबिया के बीच जो तनाव की स्थिति है उससे हमें कम काम मिलना शुरु हुआ। स्थिति यह भी है, जहां तक मुझे जानकारी है कि आज जो एक्सपोर्ट प्रोजक्ट्स की विदेशों में मांग है । उसके साथ प्लांट्स और इक्विपमेन्ट, फिर डेफर्ड पेमेंट फिर क्रेडिट और फिर इस मार्केट में यूरोपियन, जापान और अमेरिका भी घुस आए हैं, उनके साथ कम्पटीटिव रेट्स का सवाल है और उसमें शायद . .

**श्री सभापति** : या तो आप सवाल पूछिए या जवाब बताइये ।

**श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज** : मान्यवर, इससे यह प्रश्न आता है कि इसमें शायद हम पीछे जा रहे हैं और यह पीछे पड़ने की जो स्थिति है उसके बारे में क्या हमारी सरकार आगे कोई ऐसा मार्ग प्रशस्त कर रही है जिससे हम पुनः स्थापित हो सकें ?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: Our average engineering goods exports constitute 13 per cent of our total exports. During 70s it recorded an annual growth rate of about 27 per cent and of late it has come down to about 12 per cent. There are reasons for it. The main reasons for this are known to this honourable House and the honourable Member. Of course, the recent conflict is one which has re-

tarded the growth and then mainly the payment problem which is there with Iraq also. And then the problem of repayment is also there. These are some of the areas where we have to take action and the Government has taken the necessary action to remedy these problems. Mainly Iraq and Libya accounted for the major share of our contracts owned by the Indian construction companies. Out of the total contracts amounting to Rs. 5200 crores during the period 1975—82 Iraq accounted for Rs. 1840 crores. These are two major countries where our exports of engineering goods, mainly construction goods, go. The various measures that the Government has taken to solve the problems are—I would just read out one or two areas.

The Government has entered into an agreement with the Government of Iraq in respect of projects which are already under construction or execution with a view to safeguarding the interests of the contractors who had already made huge investments in the form of machinery and material. This agreement provided for deferred payment for 75 to 80 per cent payments in 1983-84. Proposals for facilitating participation by Indian companies in the future projects are under consideration in close consultation with the concerned Ministries. In Libya also there are some outstanding payments problems which are valued at about Rs. 116 crores. It has been agreed with the Libyan authorities to set up a technical committee of experts which would undertake a review of the outstanding payments with a view to resolving the problems and difficulties affecting the progress in the execution of the projects. Then, in other areas also we have taken up the question with regard to import of additional oil from Iraq to facilitate repayments. This is how we are trying to link up. These are some of the steps the Government has already taken.

**श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज:** मान्यवर, ईराक, ईरान और लीबिया क्या इन्हीं क्षेत्रों में हम घूमते रहेंगे या हम विदेशों में और भी कोई बाजार अपने लिए ढूंढ रहे हैं, यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं ।

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: No, Sir. Our attempt is to go everywhere. These construction projects, as I have said, are mainly in these two countries. That is why our aim and ambition is to go there and see how we fare. Our attempt is to spread ourselves in different areas where there are some possbilities.

**श्री रामानन्द यादव** : मान्यवर, ईराक में भारत सरकार के जिन पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्स ने काम लिया है, उस काम को पूरा करने में जो कन्ट्रेक्ट में, एग्रीमेन्ट में समय निश्चित है, उस समय पर वह काम पूरा नहीं हुआ या किसी किसी काम को पूरा करने का समय बीत गया है तो ईराक की सरकार ने भारत सरकार को लिखा था कि हम कंट्रेक्स खत्म कर देंगे, अगर समय पर काम पूरा नहीं होगा। यदि एक दो वर्ष और बीत गए हैं तो विदेशों में काम न मिलने का यह भी कारण है कि हमारी जो पब्लिक अण्डरटेकिंग विदेशों में काम करती है? अत उसका जो भी कारण हो। मान्यवर, अभी 6 महीने की तनख्वाह ईराक में काम करने वाले जो हमारे भारतीय मजदूर थे उनका पेमेंट नहीं हुआ है । भारत सरकार को ईराकी सरकार ने लिखा है कि वह उसके बदले में तेल दे देगी और आप पेमेन्ट कर दीजिए। क्या यह बात सही है कि भारत सरकार ने तेल के बदले में पेमेंट करने का आर्डर दिया है अपने खजाने से क्या यह बात सही है ? अगर सही है तो इसी आधार पर लीबिया के साथ भी या ईराक के साथ आप एग्रीमेंट करने के लिए तैयार हैं कि फ्यूचर में जो तनख्वाह मिले उसके बदले में आप तेल लेंगे और पैसा देते जायेंगे । आप रेट तय कीजिए कि आपका रेट क्या होगा?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I have already said that the whole thing is under discussion. We are trying to link it up. This is under discussion.

*224. *The questioners (Shrimati Usha Malhotra and Shri P. N. Sukul)* were absent. For answer, vide cols 38-39 infra)